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MEMORANDUMS
COLLECTION

OCT 6 1993

TO: COMMISSIONER ^{W. Timothy} MULLIGAN ^{Massachusetts}
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

THROUGH: ALFRED DEMARIA, JR., M.D. *ADM*
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
CONTROL

FROM: PAUL ETKIND, M.P.H. *pe*
ASSISTANT STATE EPIDEMIOLOGIST

DATE: JANUARY 6, 1993

RE: REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY PROMULGATION OF
REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO VACCINATING DOGS AND
CATS AGAINST RABIES

The outbreak of raccoon rabies, which has been progressing northward along the eastern seaboard since the late 1970's, entered Massachusetts last September. The existence of this epizootic increases the risk of "spillover" infections in domestic animals and people. Experience has shown that domestic animals, particularly cats and dogs, are the major bridge between wildlife rabies and people. Measures designed to increase the vaccination levels among cats and dogs are among the premier public health tools available to prevent human rabies cases. Recently, MGL c.140, s.145B ("An Act Relative to the Vaccination of Dogs and Cats Against Rabies") was passed by the Legislature and signed into law, effective February 24, 1993. Attached are proposed regulations that would provide the details for this law. We are requesting that these be promulgated as emergency regulations to take effect on February 24. The attached proposed regulations have been reviewed several times by DPH's Rabies Advisory Group (membership list attached), but we will still proceed to schedule public hearings for broader input. In the interim, it is important to have regulations be effective coincident with the law in order to gain its maximum impact.

k.

Enclosures

931/338

105 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

105 CMR 330.000 is hereby amended by striking out Chapter 330.000 and replacing it with the following:

105 CMR 330.000 REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO THE VACCINATION OF DOGS AND CATS AGAINST RABIES.

Section

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330.001: Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to regulate the vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies.

330.002: Authority

This chapter is adopted under authority of M.G.L. c.111, ss.3, 6, 7 and M.G.L. c.140, s.145B.

330.003: Citation

This chapter shall be known, and may be cited as Regulations Relative to the Vaccination of Dogs and Cats Against Rabies, 105 CMR 330.000.

105 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

105 CMR: Continued

330.100 Vaccine Administration

Dogs and cats shall be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian, or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

330.101: Use of an Approved Rabies Vaccine

Dogs and cats shall be vaccinated with an approved rabies vaccine licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture.

330.102 Vaccination Schedule

The primary vaccination series consists of two doses given one year apart. Regardless of the age at initial vaccination, a second vaccination shall be given one year later. Subsequent vaccinations should be given according to manufacturer's guidelines. If an animal falls behind schedule and vaccine status is not up-to-date, then the primary series of two doses given one year apart should be reinitiated.

330.103: Route of Inoculation

All rabies vaccines must be administered in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

330.200: Rabies Tag

A rabies tag of size, shape and color recommended by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and approved by the Department of Public Health shall be provided by the vaccinating veterinarian for each dog and cat vaccinated. Each such tag shall be inscribed with the words "Rabies Vaccinated" as well as the year, name of the veterinarian and identification number of the vaccinated dog or cat. The owner or keeper of a dog shall cause the rabies tag to be attached to the collar or harness of the dog and worn at all times in the same manner as the license tag. The owner or keeper of a cat shall either have the cat wear the tag or have the vaccination record readily available for inspection by appropriate city or town officials upon request.

339.399 **Certificate of Vaccination**

A certificate of vaccination must be completed in triplicate by the vaccinating veterinarian. The original copy shall be filed by the vaccinating veterinarian within 30 days with the clerk of the city or town where the dog is licensed, one copy is to be provided to the owner of the dog, and one shall be retained by the vaccinating veterinarian. The certificate shall be either the certificate recommended in the latest Compendium of Animal Rabies Control published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians or a certificate containing at least the following information: the owner's name and address; a description of the animal, including breed, sex, age, name and distinctive markings; date of vaccination; rabies vaccination tag number; type of rabies vaccine used; route of vaccination; expiration date of the vaccine; and the vaccine lot number.

330.400: **Timing of Vaccination**

The owner or keeper of a dog or cat six months of age or older shall cause such dog or cat to be vaccinated against rabies. Unvaccinated dogs and cats acquired or moved into the Commonwealth shall be vaccinated within ninety days after acquisition or arrival into the Commonwealth or upon reaching the age of six months, whichever occurs last. The owner or keeper of a cat or dog shall cause the animal to be revaccinated at intervals recommended by the manufacturer of the rabies vaccine.

330.500 **Dogs and Cats from Out-of-State**

Dogs and cats that are at least six months of age, and are brought into Massachusetts for purposes of shows or because their owners are visiting the Commonwealth, must have been vaccinated in a manner consistent with the requirements of this chapter.

330.600 **Proof of Vaccination Required at Certain Facilities**

No animal hospital, veterinarian's office or boarding facility shall accept a dog or cat unless the owner or keeper of such animal shall show proof of current vaccination against rabies; provided however, that if such animal has not been so vaccinated or proof is not shown, the animal shall be vaccinated prior to being discharged if the animal's medical condition permits.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

105 CMR 330.000: M.G.L. c.111, ss.3, 6 and 7; M.G.L. c.140, s.145B.

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